About This Collection

Michael McEachern McDowell was the author of a number of horror novels, including *The Amulet* (1979), *Cold Moon Over Babylon* (1980), and *The Elementals* (1981), as well as six serialized novels known as the *Blackwater* series (1983). He also has screenwriting credits for Tim Burton's *Beetlejuice* and *The Nightmare Before Christmas*, and wrote for the TV series *Tales from the Darkside*. The Michael McDowell Death Collection is comprised of 76 boxes, and spans the years 1616 – 2005. The collection was assembled by McDowell based on his interest in the subject matter, and includes correspondence, photographs (including photographic prints, daguerreotypes, tintypes, ambrotypes, and stereographs), memorial cards, jewelry, hairwork, scrapbooks, ledgers, news clippings, and artifacts. The **Psychics and Spiritualism** series, which includes boxes 35 through 43**,** contains a comparatively extensive group of spirit photographs and Spiritualism-related materials, including photographs are identified as the work of Edward Wyllie, William Mumler, Frederick Hudson, and others. The collection is currently housed in the Charles Deering McCormick Library of Special Collections, Deering Library, Level 3, 1970 Campus Drive, Evanston, Illinois.

About This Document

This document represents the contents of **Box 36, Folder 1** of the collection. It is a small beige or faded light green canvas (formerly velvet-covered?) Victorian photograph album that contains a total of 16 spirit photographs. The photographs are removable from the album's pages, and were removed for photographing in this document. There is a high likelihood that this album belonged to Georgiana Houghton or was assembled by someone closely associated with her. Five of the photographs (pages 3, 4, 5, 6) carry the stamp of Frederick Hudson's studio, while another (page 14) lacks his studio's stamp but is annotated as being taken by him. Of the lot, 11 carry annotations by or the signature of Georgiana Houghton, and the photographs on pages 3 and 8 feature the medium herself. Several notable mediums and important personages in the Spiritualist movement are featured in other photographs: Mrs. Cooper and her spirit guide John Bunyan (3), Lottie Fowler (5), Ms. Shorter (12, 13), John Lamont (14), William Turkentine (16), and possibly William Stainton Moses and his guide Imperator (18). Several photographs are noted for publication in either the Christian Spiritualist (10, 13, 14) or Spiritual Magazine (12). Other subjects were featured in Houghton's book, Chronicles of the Photographs of Spiritual Beings: Captain Ainger (9), Mrs. Barnard (10), and Mrs. Pearson of Harpur Street (6). Other photographs have different handwriting (11, 15) or are not annotated at all (17, 18), while the photograph on page 11 is marked Photographic Art Studio, 2 Kensinton Park Rd, Notting Hill Gate.

This document contains a special edition for Leslie Price--two Houghton photographs (pages 19-20) from **Box 40, Folder 20**, featuring Houghton from May and October, 1872, that seem to belong to this larger collection.

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No. 12.

April 11th 1872.



G. Houghton



4

May 16th 1872.

Miss Houghton, medium.

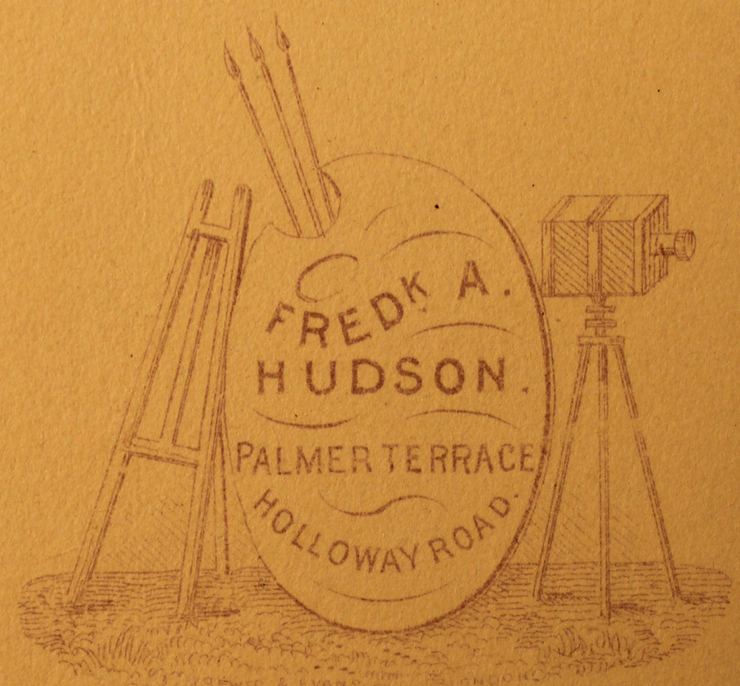


Mrs Cooper, and the Spirit of Bunyan, who has long been known to her as her guardian Spirit. On the table before her, she has an illustrated copy of "Pilgrim's Progress."



5

May 1872.



Miss Lottie Fowler,
and the little German
Spirit Annie, who
usually influences her.



Mrs Pearson of
Harpur Street, and the
Spirit of her Sister



2

April 11th 1872.

I was present when
it was taken.

G. Houghton





No. 33.

October 3rd 1872.

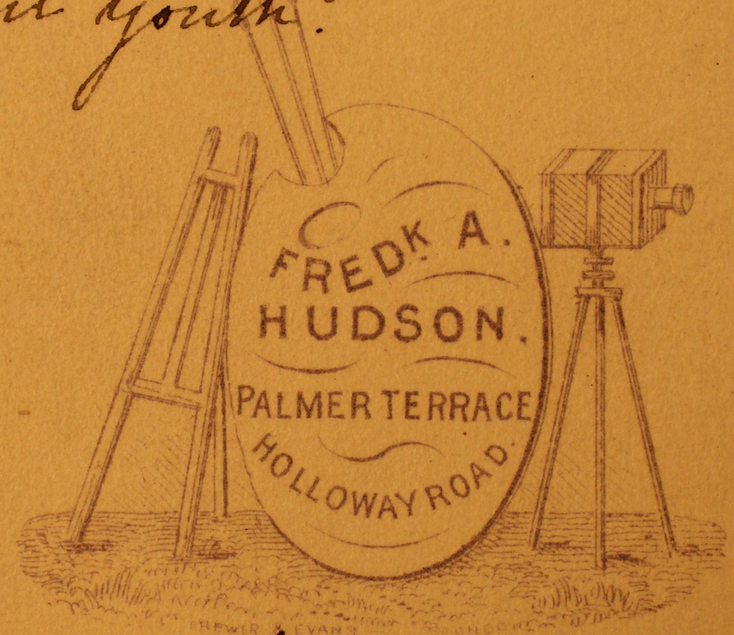
Mrs. Mon mediumship,
G. Houghton.

The veiled spirit is Salome, (the wife of Zebedee,) who in 1865 did a pen and ink drawing through my hand, symbolising high spiritual gifts accorded in these days to women. The floating flames in the photograph are types of the same. My head is slightly bowed, as if to receive a blessing, for I felt while it was being taken, as if there were the pressure of a hand.



May 1872.

A photograph shewing us that our friends may come to us as they had been in their youth.



This spirit bears a marvellous resemblance to Mrs Coleman's daughter, (Miss Deekens,) and the sitter is Mrs Coleman's nephew, who sat with the hope of obtaining a likeness of his aunt.



See Christian Spiritualist for September

August 7th 1873.

Miss Houghton, medium

Mrs Barnard
(Washington, U.S.A.)

3



S. M. Southwood
her Sister

THE
PHOTOGRAPHIC
Art Studio
2
KENSINGTON PARK Rd
NOTTING HILL GATE



See Spiritual Magazine for Decem

ember 1st 1873.

Miss Shorter.



5

See Christian Spiritualist for June 1873.

May 1st 1873.

Miss Houghton, medium

Miss Shorter & Mrs

There is a curious pattern to be seen all over this photograph, the design of which, as a sort of diamond, is most discernible where it is like a carpet in the fore-ground; but the same pattern is on the chair, the sitters' dresses, the spirit's drapery, and even on Miss Shorter's face. Some few of the other spirit photographs have exhibited a similar characteristic, and they seem to be of the same nature as Miss Kay's pencil drawings, one of which she has kindly sent to me, and it is entitled "Sketch of Scenery in the Summer Land."



5

See Spiritualist for December

Octobe[r] 73.

Mr. Jo[hn] 1.

Vice-presiden[t] erpool

Psychological [Society] 0.1.

Mr Lamont has [asked] Hudson's

to keep an appoi[ntment] séance

with me, when Mr. [Hudson] , upon called

in, and Mr Lamont [invi]ted the

favour of her sitting [with him for

a photograph, to wh[ich] she agreed,

having an impression t[hat] would

be a flower manifestat[ion] as the

expected, a shower of [many] flowers

about them. On my arrival, I found

that they had just gone down to the

studio, so I followed, an' found

that Mr. Hudson was then leaning

the plate, which Mrs Gupp[y] forwards

held for a moment in the end.

when the exposure was over [and]

I accompanied Mr. Hudson in[to] dark

room, to see the negative develop[ed],

when the flower manifestation proved

to be of a different character to the

anticipations - G. Houghton.



John S. Wills



October 2nd 1873.

William Turketine.

The Spirit is

his mother.





COPIES MAY BE HAD.

The following two photographs are from Box 40, Folder 20 of the collection, and were not part of the album.



4

October 3rd 1872

Miss Houghton, medicum.

Mrs Tebb. (No. 2.)

Mrs Tebb writes: "I am not able to recognise any face in the picture, although I see several plainly. The lights seen in the north-west corner are probably flames, and of the same nature with the something which often burns me (in a mild way) lately. I first felt this sensation of being burned at Canterbury Cathedral under the circumstances I mentioned to you on the last Sunday you were here."

(Which had been September 29th)

She felt the sensation in the studio.



See Christian Spiritualist for June 1872.

No. 17.

May 2nd 1872.

My dear sister Zilla, on whose birth-day it was taken. The light issuing from her and passing round me, is the link binding us to each other. This is the first manifestation of the inner spiritual life.

G. Houghton.